

## REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 14, 2003, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-8, 16 and 19-38 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement dated November 29, 2001. Claims 9-12, 15, and 17 are allowed.

By this Amendment, claims 13, 14, and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The amendments to the claims do not narrow the scope of the claims. Claims 13, 14 and 18 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

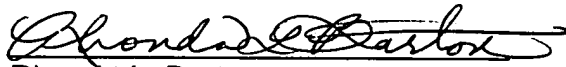
The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowance of claims 9-12, 15, and 17.

Claims 13 and 18 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 121 (*sic*) as including unmarked changes to the claims. Claim 13, 14, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Applicants have amended claims 13 and 18 responsive to the object and the rejection, and respectfully submit that all claims are in compliance with U.S. patent practice. The amendments made to claims 13 and 18 were also made to conform with the Applicants' claim amendments filed August 20, 2002, in response to paper no. 9, the Office Action dated February 18, 2002. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 13 and 18, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number 100725-00026.

Respectfully submitted,



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